

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, APRIL 10, 1850.

Although London is at the present time crowded with people, and the season, both for Parliamentary business and fashionable gatherings and public amusements, fully commenced, yet there is a great dearth of events and matter of public interest. Parliament re-assembled after the Easter recess on the 8th instant, but nothing of importance has yet taken place, although all parties appear to be buckling on their armor previous to a general *mêlée* on the subjects of retrenchment, economy, &c. Rumor strengthens almost daily respecting an approaching change in the Ministry. The Earl of CLARENDON will, it is said, take office under a new organization of the Cabinet, and if Sir ROBERT PEEL does not absolutely do the same, report is very prevalent that such arrangements will be made as will identify him and his friends with the existing Administration. In fact, although no important divisions have taken place since the recess, yet those which have occurred clearly show that the agricultural protectionists and the old Tory rump in Parliament so far identify their cause with that of reform and retrenchment as to induce them to vote with even the ultra Radicals, upon any and all questions which tend to embarrass Ministers. Thus, upon a trifling division the other night, on a question relating to improving the accommodation provided for assistant surgeons on board ships of war, Ministers were defeated by a majority of forty-eight against forty. Of the former, twelve were Protectionists of the old school, nine were Conservatives of the Peel party, and the remaining twenty-seven Radical Reformers; whilst of the forty who voted with Ministers, no less than seventeen were absolutely either in the Cabinet or held high and important offices under the Government. Again last night, when Lord DUNCAN brought forward his motion for the repeal of the window tax, a considerable number of Tories and Protectionists voted with the Reformers, and the motion was rejected by a ministerial majority of only three; the vote being eighty in favor of retaining the tax, whilst seventy-seven voted for its repeal. This state of things cannot last; Lord JOHN RUSSELL must add either to the physical or the moral force of his Government, or he will be defeated; and the best friends of the Whigs begin to admit that such is the present position of political parties. Mr. D'ISRAELI does not appear satisfied with the committee which Lord JOHN RUSSELL proposes to raise on the subject of salaries, retrenchment, &c., and has stated that he shall support a motion for a much more searching inquiry and more stringent measures upon the subject than he supposes will be likely to be produced by Lord JOHN's committee. The ministerial measure will be introduced on Friday evening; after which we may probably form a correct opinion upon the subject; but at present the apparent junction of the Protectionists and the Reformers upon this and other leading points of policy look very unfavorable for the present Administration.

The returns of the revenue for the quarter just terminated have, however, been directly opposite to the predictions of the Protectionists. The *Gazette* of yesterday announces that the exact surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year which ended 31st January, 1850, was £2,098,126 2s. 1d., and the quarter which ended 5th instant, instead of showing that alarming indication of ruin and progress towards national bankruptcy which was prophesied, shows an increase of £1,854 over the similar quarter of 1849. The income and property tax is now perhaps one of the best gauges of the condition of the people generally, and if the amount this tax produced in 1849-'50 belongs solely to that year, and is not to any considerable degree made up of arrears of former years, it indicates an augmentation in the income of those classes who pay it of about £100,000,000, or twenty-five per cent. on the estimated aggregate income of the United Kingdom. In whatever light this fact may be viewed, or however much it may be modified, it is still one which bears convincing testimony to the stability of the resources of the country, and proves that the condition of the trading and producing classes, and, we hope, that of the landed and agricultural interests, notwithstanding the present depression of the grain market, is improving rapidly. This is a well founded hope, if the state of the revenue is to be regarded as furnishing evidence of any thing. The *Morning Herald*, however, and other journals of the "croaking" school, say that the severest trial-time has not yet come, and that the results of free trade on the farming interests will be tested within the next twelve months. We are afraid that both farmers and laborers are suffering at present, but there is every reason to hope that such suffering will be only very temporary, being the unavoidable consequence of a change of policy, that change being from an erroneous, partial, and unjust course, to a judicious, liberal, and equitable one. The Protectionists have more than once made an assertion that British cotton and woollen manufactures were still protected by duties to the extent of ten per cent. A return, made on the motion of Mr. HUME, proves the fallacy of this assertion. This return shows that the revenue collected from imported manufactures of all kinds during 1849, and which amount indicates the extent of protection to those of home production, was £476,476; while on imported agricultural produce of every kind, the amount thus collected in the form of import duties was £1,062,506, of which the duty on corn was no less than £637,814, that on all other articles £424,692.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to Lord DUNCAN, in relation to the window tax, stated that the tax could not be said to bear oppressively upon the poorer classes of society, nor to have an impeding effect upon projected sanitary improvement, since "out of the three millions and a half of houses in the country, only half a million were liable to the window tax; the other three millions, being the residences of the poorer classes, were entirely exempt from it." The annual produce of the window tax is about £1,800,000, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer said Government could not get on without it. Mr. HUME, in reply, had no doubt that if Parliament repealed the tax, Ministers could very promptly reduce their estimates so as to fall within the diminished revenue. The division upon this question is regarded as a Ministerial defeat, especially as Lord JOHN RUSSELL was supported by all his official staff, whilst several members who would have voted for Lord DUNCAN's motion were shut out of the division.

The *Quarterly Review*, in its very special but clever article "Facts from Figures," gives the following statement of the comparative amounts of the exports and imports of England, France, and the United States, for two periods of four years each, in order to show that the imports of France have increased in a twofold proportion to those of England; whilst the exports of France have increased nearly five times as fast as those of England, and the exports of the United States about twice as fast:

	England.	France.	U. States.
Imports			
Av. from 1816 to '20	£10,211,055	17,420,900	12,900,449
1840 to '44	£32,256,963	41,242,251	20,448,221
Increase	12 per cent.	250 per cent.	Nil.
Exports			
Av. from 1816 to '20	£10,211,055	17,420,900	12,900,449
1840 to '44	£32,256,963	41,242,251	20,448,221
Increase	30 per cent.	142 per cent.	60 per cent.

We have not the means at hand of verifying these figures; but, as they are said to have been supplied

by Mr. G. F. YOUNG, one of our best informed London merchants, we presume they are correct. Your *American Almanac* for the present year states the entire extent of railroads in operation in the United States to be 6,117 miles. An English return makes the entire extent of railroads in Great Britain, in operation on 1st June last, to be 5,447 miles, and the number of persons employed thereon 55,968, or rather more than ten to a mile.

Our English journals show, by their comments upon the debates in your Senate on the subject of slavery, that they really know very little about the matter; but now and then there is a very fair quantity of good sense as well as of good feeling exhibited. The latter, by the by, is seldom wanting in the leading newspapers, which is very pleasant to read and gratifying to have to record. We will venture to notice two instances. The first is from the *Economist* of the 6th instant. An editorial article therein says: "All the business of society, notwithstanding the Senate of the United States was wholly engrossed with the slavery debate, was going on as vigorously as ever. Never was it more active. Some of the journals have written against speculation, and predict a period of collapse, regarding the present activity as 'a vast inflation not to be sustained. The prosperity is attractive, and it is the boast of some of the journals that while the members of Congress are daily threatening a dissolution of the Union, neighboring States and countries are anxious to be admitted members of it. Canada talks of annexation; California is pressing for admission; Cuba is ready to join it, and is only withheld by the power of Spain, and the modesty and integrity of the United States in refusing to accede to its wishes, and to grant some assistance to accomplish them. Mexico has laid aside, it is said, its hostile feelings, and its people are looking forward earnestly and anxiously to incorporation. Central America, too, is soliciting a closer connexion, and hoping for the time to come when it shall form a part of the great republic that is to stretch over the whole continent. Events are advancing rapidly, though the Congress may stand still. Society will not wait for its leave to live, and thrive, and grow, and will, in some way or other, settle the slavery question; perhaps before Congress has done talking about it. In America it is even more clearly than in Europe that society moves faster than legislation, and does not depend on that to regulate its future existence. Thus, while members of Congress are threatening dismemberment, there is gathering round the States as a nucleus other States ready to adhere to it and increase it on every side. It is swelling, too, by immigration from every quarter, and exhibiting the extraordinary spectacle of men of nearly every lineage of the earth being harmoniously absorbed by the great Anglo-Saxon family, and becoming one with it. The reverse of the phenomenon that occurred on the plains of Babel seems there in progress, and many, if not branches of all the various nations of the earth, are uniting to use one tongue and live under one law."

The temper and tone of the following extract from the *Examiner* are not to be found fault with; but the ignorance which suggested the passage we have italicized is unpardonable, particularly in a journal like the *Examiner*, which is the text-book of a large class of readers, and a publication of great talent and liberality. "Absorbed in this great domestic quarrel, (slavery,) the United States Government in Congress seems to have neither leisure nor inclination for either quarrel or rivalry with European States. Notwithstanding our differences on one or two points, we have every reason to be satisfied with the Americans and their Government. The Mosquito affair has been most happily and fairly settled; and notwithstanding the unwillingness of the Cabinet at Washington to admit a fair reciprocity of duties with Canada, to consider Canada as exempt from the rule of a coasting party, or to resist demands for raising their tariff, we must consider the Government at Washington as a most friendly one. As to the tariff, that portion of it on which the American Cabinet is likely to give way inflicts so palpable a wrong on American interests that it quite dispenses with English argument against it. The great raw materials of coal and iron are what chiefly clamor for protection, both unworthy of it and utterly incapable of supplying the demand, as generally happens where protection is clamored for. But the State of Pennsylvania, which is rich in these products, is so populous and powerful, and at the same time so placed between the contending portions of North and South, that it possesses the absolute power of deciding and turning the color of an election. The demands of Pennsylvania, therefore, are not to be resisted. The only reliance must be on its future enlightenment and increased wisdom."

There are other great and palpable errors in this extract, besides the one we have designated, showing the great ignorance of the writer as to the nature of our institutions, and the relative weight, influence, and tendencies of the different portions of our Confederation. The *Morning Chronicle*, which has lately inclined to be more vituperative than argumentative, and has, in its zeal to serve a party, ceased to be what it was when the enlightened PERRY was its presiding genius—the advocate of mankind—has an article headed "Sir Henry Bulwer and the American Protectionists," in which it speaks of the amazing ignorance of public law which led the American people into a few serious mistakes. As the writer does not inform us in what this ignorance, and these absurdities and mistakes consisted, he does not furnish the means of removing the one, or correcting the other.

The town of Liverpool has begun to take its share in the great exhibition of 1851. It purposes to prepare a model of its docks, exhibiting the whole length of the present sea-wall (five miles) and the commercial portion of the town, including St. George's Hall, the Railway Stations, the Markets, Custom House, Town Hall, several Churches, and the greater portion of the Warehouses, on a scale of eight feet to a mile. It is also proposed to exhibit a comprehensive collection of the principal articles imported into Liverpool, with an appropriate description of each.

Our Grain market is still further depressed. The wool and timber trades are brisk. Silk very inactive. Cotton about the same, but, if any change, a little in advance. Coffee the subject of much speculation, but not much increased in price. The adulteration of coffee by chicory is immense. A respectable grocer, in a fashionable watering place, gives the following proportions: For the "shilling coffee," the chicory was to be as three to one; for the "one and four penny" as five to two; and in the "one and eight penny," the best quality, the proportions were equal. There is a strong feeling growing up in the public mind about this imposition in the sale of what is called coffee.

The deaths in London, during the past week, have slightly diminished, having been 1,124; they are, however, still considerably above the average of the last ten years, which, according to the increased population, was 1,061. The weather is now very mild and genial, with gentle spring showers; the hedges are unfolding their bright green leaves, the grass of the pastures and meadows is springing up soft and luxuriant, and the gardens give promise of flower and fruit. The balminess of the air, and the mild beauty and natural objects have a grateful influence over both mind and body, which probably no season and no position can so fully produce as a spring-day in England.

The Continent of Europe is also, in a great measure, a blank. France affords nothing new. The panic caused by the result of the late elections has, in a great measure, subsided; but, with the restless character of the French people, they are now full of anxiety about the next, which will take place on the 28th instant. It is not exactly known who will be the candidate for either party to supply the vacancy caused by the resignation of M. VIDAL. Very little importance is attached to the insult which the President received from the mob in the Faubourg St. Antoine on Easter Monday. It is regarded as an act of great imprudence for the head of the Government to drive in full uniform through that quarter on a fair or festival day; and the French papers make allowance for the populace in such a place on such a holiday. The indications, however, of the growing hostility of this class of the people of Paris to the existing Government, is not

to be overlooked. There is no doubt that, on both sides, this hostility between the party which is represented by the majority of the Assembly and of France, and the Red faction, is very rapidly increasing in intensity. No doubt, however, seems to be entertained of the efficiency and fidelity of the troops in and about Paris, which form an army of upwards of 60,000 men; and the military skill and intrepidity of General CHAMAGNIER are the real securities on which the protection of society depends. The Paris manufacturers have lately received numerous orders from abroad, especially from Spain and Switzerland, and the operatives are in full employment. The accounts from the provinces are also favorable. The markets of Havre and Bordeaux are more animated. The manufacturers of Rouen are also fully employed. Several vessels are loading with French produce for San Francisco. Agriculture is, however, sadly depressed by the low prices of produce, which do not receive any upward impulse by the satisfactory appearance of the growing crops. Vast quantities of wine and brandy have arrived at the ports from the interior, and much business is transacting on those articles. Burgundy wines have experienced a rise in consequence of letters from Auxerre, announcing that the wines of the vintage of 1849 are becoming tart. On the whole, the state of FRANCE would be very satisfactory, could we feel a little more assurance of the permanence of political arrangements.

Spain goes on realizing the hopes we have lately very gladly been indulging in. The reconciliation between England and Spain is positively said to have been effected. Devoted as Spain has hitherto been to the interests of the Holy Pontiff, she is now at loggerheads with his Nuncio, and that too upon a point which shows that, though desirous of being the friend of the Pope, she will no longer submit to his dictation in her home affairs. The Nuncio had demanded that the religious communities, hitherto the oppressive incubus and retarding pest of all the best interests of Spain, should be re-established, and that an ecclesiastical tribunal, dependent on the Holy See, should be created. This demand the royal council of Spain refused; it was reiterated, and thereupon the Government stopped the enrolment of the Papal legion in Spain. We wish we could see any evidence of vitality in PORTUGAL. Either the Poets as whimsical and variable as a spoiled child, or the foreign correspondents of the London press have been sadly at fault in obtaining reliable intelligence concerning him and his intentions. The rumor now is, that His HOLINESS has been hitherto prevented from leaving the Neapolitan dominions through the influence, if not the absolute restraint, of the King of Naples, and that the French authorities at Rome have, at last, plainly intimated to his Majesty that, if any further undue influence was exerted over the mind or person of the Holy Father, the French fleet at Naples would adopt very summary measures towards the royal navy and palace in that city. In consequence of this threat, it is now asserted that Pío Nono would bid adieu to his royal friend on Thursday last, the 4th instant; but whether he would go to Rome, or remain at Terracina, (a town in the Campagna di Roma, and part of the Papal States), is a matter of doubt. Should he stop short of Rome, it will clearly indicate that he cannot yet trust the people of his capital. We have no news from any other part of Italy.

GERMANY is still the arena of political controversy and State management. The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says, "The present difficulties and divisions of Germany make the degree of union obtained under the old confederation appear as evanescence, and a better defence against Russia, 'influence, than anything at present likely to succeed it.' This is a lamentable conclusion to arrive at; we trust, however, that it is not the true one. So far as England and the peace of Europe are concerned, this would be a most unfortunate result. We are no friends to the undue ambition of Prussia, or that of any other power; but we have a greater dread of the imbecility of Austria, backed and encouraged by the influence of Russia. This has led us to look with sorrow at the rapid defection of important German States and Kingdoms, from the confederation with Prussia, either to join Austria in her madman attempts to restore the old regime, or to form wild and impracticable plans of their own. As at present Austria, Austria, Bavaria, Württemberg, and Saxony, with a German population of about 17,000,000, are banded together to restore something approaching to the old German Diet; Hanover, Holstein, Luxembourg, Frankfurt, and two or three other minor Powers, with an aggregate German population of about 3,000,000, remain neutral; leaving Prussia, with the remainder of Germany, and a German population of about 22,500,000, to be represented, and act together at Erfurt. The Parliament at Erfurt consists of an upper house of 95 members, of which Prussia sends 40, and a lower house of 224 members, of whom 158 are from Prussia. Prussia has, therefore, a majority of 92 in the lower house, and a majority of 77 on joint ballot. The Prussian confederation is, however, threatened with the further defection of Oldenburg, and Hesse, and Mecklenburg. The loss of Hesse would be of the most important consequences to Prussia, because it would cut her off from her most valuable ally, Baden. It was provided in the Prussian Constitution, that those Powers which accepted it, and afterwards separated from the Prussian Union, should be tried by a federal tribunal. Prussia has summoned Hanover before such a tribunal, which, if the business be perished in, will most assuredly condemn her. It then would be for Prussia to occupy Hanover with her armies; this she could accomplish in twenty-four hours, for she would, probably, not meet with much opposition from the Hanoverians. But, it may fairly be asked, has Prussia the courage to take this step? We think not. If Prussia were to occupy Hanover, the Austrians would probably defend Saxony, by marching an army into her country. It is not very likely that any absolute collision would ensue, but there would be much harsh and tedious negotiation. Should Prussia refuse to take this decided attitude, she had better abandon all attempts to establish a German league, for it would then be evident that she had not the courage to carry forward her own stipulations to their legitimate issue. The Prussian Ministers, Mantuffel, Brandenburg, and Radetzky, are all firm men, and apparently determined to employ force. They have already recalled the Prussian Ambassadors from the courts of Hanover and Württemberg; and the only unresolved question is the firmness of the King. If he have courage he will carry the day; for Russia, notwithstanding her increase of force in Poland, her menacing note to Prussia, and her dictatorial attitude, will not risk a war with Germany; and a collision between Austria and Prussia would be the signal for the dissolution of the Austrian Empire, and the rising of every one of her provinces. The most important opponent Prussia has in Germany is Bavaria, as represented by her very talented Minister Von DER POTTER, who, if he had his way, would, by his policy, defeat the objects of Prussia more than the armies of Austria or the menaces Russia would be able to do. Von Der Potter is an extreme liberal, and thought that Bavaria might bid against Prussia, by proposing a more liberal constitution for Germany than that which Prussia has proclaimed. But Von Der Potter's plan has been so metamorphosed and neutralized by Schwartzburg and the Russian agents, that it will no longer suit the Germans of the Prussian league, for it is now more despotic than even the old German Diet itself, which Austria would like to have re-established; because she could then retain the domination over the Empire, and Russia would aid in re-establishing, because it would keep Germany weak. The great error which Prussia has committed, but which she may yet remedy, seems to be in having depended upon her army, and not upon the Prussian and German people. If the reliance had been, or was now upon the latter, the King might unhesitatingly defy all threats and all the power of Austria and Russia united.

German affairs now take another phase; Prussia has withdrawn her complaints, which took the form of an indictment against Hanover and Saxony. This proceeding has been adopted, we are told, in consequence of fresh proposals having been made by the Austrian Government. The Cabinet of Russia has also, it is said, addressed a very friendly note to the Prussian and Austrian Governments, recommending a more conciliatory policy on both sides, and at the same time making no objections whatever to the more intimate confederation which the Prussian Government advocates. These rumors are correct, they change the whole aspect of German affairs, but have no bearing upon the correctness of the opinions we have expressed.

There has been a very petty sort of quarrel between the Emperor of AUSTRIA and one of his ministers, Dr. BACH. It appears that the young Emperor's personal friend and favorite, Count GÜNKEL, is in the habit of attending all Cabinet councils whenever the Emperor is absent, and sometimes of addressing the assembled ministers. On one of these occasions, the Count concluded his address with the remark, "that is my opinion, and in that sense I shall vote." Dr. BACH, Minister of the Interior, immediately replied:

"My colleagues and myself are here assembled as the responsible advisers of the Crown; until now we have never objected to your presence, as you attend here by the wish of the Emperor, in order to inform him of the progress and result of the deliberations which take place in his absence, nor have we objected to any remarks which you have made on these occasions; but when you express an intention of 'voting' in a particular way, I feel it to be my duty, as a minister and a member of the Cabinet, to remind you that your exceptional position in these councils does not confer on you any direct influence over our decisions; such a proceeding on the part of any person not a member of the ministry, if permitted, would at once overturn the whole constitutional machinery. We alone, the responsible advisers of the Crown, are responsible to public opinion for the measures we may adopt, and cannot therefore permit ourselves to be misled by any improper influence. For myself, the expression which you have been pleased to use compels me to enter the strongest protest against your being permitted to address the council."

The narrative continues: "A discussion ensued on this speech of Bach's, in which the views of the Minister of the Interior were strenuously supported by Count GÜNKEL, the Minister of War. So soon as the sitting was concluded, Count GÜNKEL, in a letter to his master, is complained of Bach. His imperial Majesty caused Bach to appear in the presence, and remonstrated with him very seriously on the views which he, as Minister of the Interior, had expressed in the cabinet council. The imperial dissatisfaction was conveyed to Count GÜNKEL in a similar manner. Bach retired home from his interview with the Emperor, and at once wrote a note demanding that his due exceptional position in these councils should be restored. The Emperor somewhat startled at this sudden demand, hurried with the note to his mother, the Archduchess Sophia, who undertook to mollify Bach and induce him to retain his office. Bach permitted himself to be soothed by the imperial lady, and consented to her wishes."

This is a fair sample of the way in which affairs of state are conducted in Vienna. The Emperor attempts to control the decisions of his Ministers by the espionage and the dictation of a favorite; failing in this, he runs like an offended child to his mother; she soothes the imperial stripling, and restores peace between him and his offended Minister. Can, or ought, such a system of managing the affairs of nearly 40,000,000 of human beings be of long continuance?

Many conferences have lately taken place at Vienna between Prince Schwartzberg and the ambassador of Prussia and Russia. The Bank of Vienna has just published a return, showing that its notes in circulation amount to £24,366,455 sterling, and its bullion and coin to £3,111,399. Letters from Rome of the 1st instant, state that French troops were on the point of marching for Velletri, to receive the Poets with all honors. The dispute between ENGLAND and GREECE is yet unsettled, and various rumors are in circulation about it. The RUSSIAN Government has for some time been maneuvering in the Danubian principalities, with a view of inducing its determination to continue the occupation of those Turkish dependencies. On the 1st of March the Russian troops ought to have been reduced to 10,000 men; they remained, however, to the number of 45,000. The King of DENMARK is said to be dangerously ill. His death would involve the affairs of northern Europe in greater intricacy than ever, particularly as relates to the SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN question.

3 o'clock.—A division in the House of Commons last night, on the county court extension bill, left ministers in the minority of 67 against 144. Perhaps it cannot be said that the measure is altogether a ministerial one, yet when it is considered that in the minority of 67 there were no fewer than 30 official votes included, it has very much the appearance of a Government question. The majority was composed of 67 Liberals, 30 Radical Reformers, and 47 Protectionists. The minority of 17 Whigs and Liberals, 30 officeholders, 12 Protectionists, and 9 Reformers. The Bishop of Exeter is certainly in earnest, for the costs which he has incurred in the Gorham case amount to no less than £14,000. The *Daily News* is publishing a series of articles on the Coal and Iron Trade of the United States, based upon Mr. Bradford's observations on those subjects, and the statistics supplied by the pamphlet published by Mr. Child, of Philadelphia. These articles will tend to disperse the errors under which some of our leading journalists, and the bulk of the English people, labor upon these subjects. At the Ironmasters' meeting held at Birmingham yesterday, it was represented that "the tone of the market was gloomy," and the iron trade of South Staffordshire as well as that of South Wales was stated to be "entirely speculative." Prices were regarded as "arbitrary," but quoted as follows: Bars, £6; rods, £6 to £6 10s.; hoops, £6 10s.; sheets £7 10s., and pigs, £3 to £3 5s. News from Paris represents the proceedings of the Socialists at their electoral meetings as much more violent than they were before the last election.

London Stock Exchange, 3 o'clock.
Consols for money.....95½ to 96½
Consols for account (9th May).....95½ to 96
Paris Bourse, April 11.
5 per Cents.....89 fr. 45 ct.
3 ".....55 fr. 60 ct.
Bank of France.....2,160 fr.

At the Havre Cotton Market yesterday, sales were effected of 800 bales; the demand was more regular, but without any material change in price.
Take the following as a sample of a London day, as respects the weather: At 8 in the morning, cloudy with spring showers; 10, bright and clear sunshine; 12, cloudy and heavy rain; 1, the atmosphere is so murky and dark that candles were necessary to see to read or write, even in tolerably open situations; at 2 P. M., heavy rain and thunder; at 3, bright clear sky and pure atmosphere.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

The Rev. CANON BOWLES, the poet, whose controversy with Byron may be recollected by many, died at Salisbury, in England, on the 7th instant, at the advanced age of 89. Accounts from Russia announce that M. BODISCO, Minister of the War to the United States, instead of being banished to Siberia, has been decorated by the Emperor with the grand cross of the order of Walldemar.

Marlborough House, the residence of the late Queen Dowager, has been given by her Majesty to the Prince of Wales. The Prince, however, is too young to have a "household" of his own, and the Vernon pictures are to ornament the empty house until the Prince shall be of age, or the National Gallery shall have been enlarged to receive them.

The Norfolk Chronicle announces that Dr. WOLF has volunteered to Lady Franklin to accompany the expedition to the north pole, or to go by land with the Esquimaux, amongst whom some of his countrymen are missionaries, in search of Sir John Franklin.

An American churn has been exhibited before the Lord Mayor of London, which in ten minutes produced four pounds of butter from four quarts of cream.

Major General SMITH (E. I. C. S.) has arrived in England, after having served fifty-three years without having once quitted India.

Among the effects sold last week at the Queen's house, Lyndhurst, "the celebrated coat worn by the late Duke of York at the visit of the allied sovereigns to England, said to have cost £454 pounds, and presented by his royal Highness to the late T. White, Esq." was bought at £85.

There is at present residing in Southampton, England, an old man named Wade, the last survivor of Capt. Cook's companions in his voyages round the world. He is ninety-nine years of age, and is in possession of all his faculties. He was present at Capt. Cook's death, and himself received a spear-wound from one of the Islanders.

The Emperor of Morocco has sent some native African animals and birds as presents to Queen Victoria. They consist of a lion, lioness, tiger, five gazelles, and two pairs of ostriches.

It is stated in the *Berliner Allgemeine Kirchen Zeitung* that the Jews have obtained a firm from the Porte granting them permission to build a temple on Mount Zion. The projected edifice is to equal Solomon's Temple in magnificence. Millions of money are said to have been collected for the purpose in America alone.—N. Y. Evening Post.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, APRIL 11, 1850.

During the last week a highly interesting discussion has occupied for two days the Assembly, the Press, and the salons. It was in reference to a bill regulating the punishment of deportation or exile. The uncertainty of politics in France, the exasperation of parties, tending, as is not permitted to doubt, to violent collision, of very doubtful issue, gave to this question an actuality which explains the interest it excited. Every public man and almost every private man feels that it is a personal concern of his own—that the law made to-day might very possibly be applied to its authors to-morrow. A curious state of things exists in France respecting the penalty in question. Article 17 of the penal code defines deportation to consist in the being transported and residing for life in a place determined by the law without the continental territory of the kingdom. The pain, applied to ordinary offences, has had place, in the statute-book since 1791, and applied to political offences since 1810. But the fact is that the place which was to have been designated by a subsequent law for the residence of the condemned, never has been so designated; and the effect, that, under the empire, those who incurred this pain were confined in the fort of Châtelet, and since then either in the citadel of Mont St. Michel, or of Doullens, within the limits of France. It is in the latter that Barbès, Blanqui, and the other insurgents of May and June are now imprisoned. By the terms of the present bill it is proposed that deportation and confinement in a fortress shall be applied in all cases of political crimes which, prior to the abolition of capital punishment for political offences, were punished with death. The bill designates the fortress of Vauhan, in the Marquesas Islands, as the place of confinement. Simple deportation without imprisonment is awarded in cases where there are declared to be extenuating circumstances. The island of Noukahiwa is designated as the place of banishment. The committee is of opinion that simple deportation may be legally applied to the actual prisoners of Doullens. The pain already existed; they were condemned to suffer it. The present law only designates the place of punishment, and will not therefore be liable to objection as an *ex post facto* law. Confinement in the fortress of Vauhan cannot be applied to them: this is an aggravation of previous legislation.

The principal speaker against the bill was VICTOR HUGO. This gentleman, this splendid orator, this magnificent genius is henceforth lost, I am grieved to say, to the cause of order. It is a thousand pities that he, that LAMARTINE, that any men of their temperament, should be tempted to descend from the ethereal element in which they find their proper mode of existence, to swim in the troubled sea of politics. Poets are not made of the same stuff with statesmen, and never attempt to play their part without quickly showing their incompetence and unfitness. Hoe handles and plough frames are not made of mahogany. Gold and silver have their uses, but you cannot make an axe with them. LAMARTINE has been fully tried, and found sadly wanting in the practical qualities which an active, successful, and useful participation in political affairs requires. With a genius, a patriotism, and, I may add, an honesty which none question, there are probably not a hundred men in France who would be willing again to place the helm of State in his hands, unless it were with the hope and confidence of soon, by means of him and because of him, reaching a crisis, which might bring about, in spite of him, the triumph of a cause which LAMARTINE little thought and little desired to serve. VICTOR HUGO is affording another illustration. Seizing, or rather seized by a great and generous idea, it is the fault of these ardent imaginations to seek its immediate realization, taking no account of the thousand practical considerations which the man of mere talent and common sense perceives to render immediate realization inexpedient or impossible. Hugo had the misfortune to deliver in the Assembly last January a most able and eloquent speech on the public education bill. The views he took, and which I thought no less wisely taken than eloquently and forcibly expressed, differed, the clerical party would tell you, *totò calo* from those advocated by the Ministry and the majority. He opposed the priestly or jesuitical influence in the University, which he said had ever been detestable, and would ever be pernicious. That speech was hypocritically lauded to the skies by the whole Left. The *Montagnards* made the orator the object of an ostentatious and noisy ovation. Previously there had been no sympathy between Hugo and the Mountain; he had ever been ranked and hated as belonging to the liberal but sincere and firm friends of order, having no communion with the men of the barricades. But the Left thought the moment favorable to establish this communion. They skillfully improved it. They wished to gain this magnificent orator, one of the greatest "illustrations" of France, to their cause; and they commenced a course of artful perfidious wooing, which, alas! has ended in his seduction. His former friends, it must be admitted, but too well promoted the alienation of Hugo by their intolerance and abuse. They called him deserter and traitor even before he had descended from the tribune in January; they jeered and twitted him with the applause elicited from the Mountain; a hundred voices from the Right and Centre shouted, "Yes, yes!" when the orator asked if he was "suspected" by them? From that moment Hugo has been retiring more and more to the Left; and his speech of Friday last proves that he has only a few more paces to take before arriving at the summit of the Mountain. Excepting its poetry and frequent bursts of eloquence, which but one orator in the House could equal, his speech of Friday night will have come from Jules Favre or Ledru Rollin. He summoned all his powers against the deportation bill. From the beginning to the end he was momentarily interrupted by the murmurs and protestations of the Right, and the plaudits of the Left. Repeatedly the President was compelled to call the Right to order. V. Hugo declared that the bill was in fact a re-establishment of the pain of death for political offences, which it was a chief glory of the revolution of February to have abolished, and which Government dared not expressly to restore: only instead of one executioner there would be three—a murderous climate, exile, imprisonment. And upon whom was it intended to apply this exceedingly cruel law? Upon men condemned for the most uncertain of all offences, political offences; by the most uncertain of all justices, political justice. Upon men, criminal in the eyes of some, heroes in the eyes of others. He declared that acclimatization was impossible for the European under the circumstances in which the condemned would be placed. The pain proposed was less terrible in appearance, more horrible in fact, than death in the ordinary mode.

"Gentlemen of the majority, do you know what you are doing? You are decreeing vengeance! You shall receive it! You carry all before you now: you are the strongest to-day. Are you sure of being so to-morrow?"
A voice from the Right. "No, if many desert us as you have done."
V. Hugo. "There is no telling upon whom this law will soon be applied. Perhaps at this very moment it is yourselves that I am defending against yourselves."
Another voice from the Right. "Thank you; don't give yourself the trouble."
V. Hugo. "In certain events, unfortunately very possible, you cannot say what your own law will do with you. Reflect! My God! you are shutting your eyes to the future. Will you shut them too on the past?"
The Right. "He is trying to frighten us. We will not yield."

At the close of his speech a burst of applause, long, loud, and universal, rose from the Left, and with one accord all the members of that side of the House rose and descended into the passage to felicitate the orator on his descent from the tribune. The sitting was suspended for half an hour. Let me do justice to M. Hugo. I do not believe that there is a more sincere, honest, and conscientious member of the Assembly. He is no violent and bloody Revolutionist; he is not of, though temporarily among, the unscrupulous men of violence, the chiefs of the ultra Republican party; and he would shrink with horror from their contact, if by the unhappy concurrence of circumstances, actually made to operate upon his generous but sensitive disposition, he were not prevented from seeing them, their means, and their end, in their veritable light. M. ROUSSEAU, Minister of Justice, in a few plain remarks, did justice upon the brilliant phrases of the poet who preceded him. Experience had proved, he said, and was every day proving, that something more severe, intimidating, terrible, than confinement in a fort within the territory of France, was necessary to meet the exigencies of the actual situation. The condemned laughs at your sentence for life. He awaits, he expects the triumph of his party, when the prison doors will instantly burst open for his deliverance. He still labors for this triumph. He provokes by inflammatory appeals to the public through the press, against which the law is powerless, for its pains are exhausted. In fact, the condemned insurgents, suffering as they have hitherto suffered, the penalty of their crime, are still the most formidable promoters of insurrection. It was absolutely necessary to put a stop to this. They must be made to feel that if condemned for life they will suffer for life. They must be removed from the sympathy of family and friends, before whom, to the great danger of society, they are ever presenting themselves as martyrs in the cause of the people. Society cannot exist upon such conditions. These arguments appear to me unanswerable. The present system is a mere mockery. There is no terror in it. Imprisonment, as heretofore practised, is even coveted as a means of assuaging a sort of political calvary, which, when they shall be released, (and they all expect to be released,) will be utilized in the clubs, and made to avail them for political preferment. De Flotte, one of the successful candidates of last month in Paris, is a signal illustration. An insurgent of June, 1848, a pardoned tenant of the prison-ships, under sentence of perpetual deportation, he is now, not in spite of that, but because of that, a member of the National Assembly. Admiral DREYER TROUSSARD ascended the tribune after M. Rouher, and bore the most positive testimony in favor of the climate of the Marquesas. It was he who took possession of the islands in the name of France. The islands to which it is proposed to transport convicts are known to us by the names of Nukahiva, or Federal island, and Wahagu, or Washington island. They belong to the Washington group of the Meridiana Archipelago.

The Assembly decided by a vote of 431 to 217 that the bill should pass its second reading. Among those who abstained from voting upon the occasion, it is curious to note Fer. Barrot, Antoine Bonaparte, Briffault, Ney de Moscovia, Col. Ney, Persigny, all intimate friends or personally connected with the President, De Remusat, Rochejaquelein. Among those who voted for the bill I see the names of Odilon Barrot, Gustave de Beaumont, Gen. Changarnier, Gen. Lamoricière, Gen. Bédau, among those who voted against it Francis Arago, Napoleon Bonaparte, Pierre Bonaparte, Gen. Cavaignac, Lamartine, Mauguin, Gavini, and Gen. Montholon. Emile Girardin, editor of the *Press*, which is now the leading organ of the Socialist Republican party, professes to be so enraptured with Hugo and his speech, that he is having, at his own expense, a medal struck in honor of the one and commemorative of the other.

The discussion of the deportation bill and the strong majority which seems determined to pass it, have, it is said, stricken terror into the clubbists. Many of them even urge another appeal to physical force rather than see the project become law. This cause of popular irritation is added, at the present moment to another, viz. the rigorous measures for summary elimination from the city of some four or five thousand vagabonds and discharged convicts, who rob and murder, and, ever ready for insurrection, hold the knife, as it were, constantly upon the throat of Society. The last number of the *Napoleon*, a little weekly, known to be written under the eye, if not with the pen of the President of the Republic, devotes one of its articles to this subject, and to the numerous foreign political refugees who find shelter in Paris, and have ever furnished a strong quota to the force of French emile. The determination of the Ministry to get rid of these evils is avowed. It was intended to ask a special law to this end, but the fear of waking the ire of the press induced a postponement of this bill